**Joint venture partners of NTPC for captive mining**

860. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NTPC, largest power generation company, is planning for multiple Joint venture companies for its ambitious diversification into captive mining; and

(b) if so, whether NTPC has identified Joint Venture partners for captive mining?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has already appointed a Consultant for preparing selection criteria and other related documents for upfront selection of Joint Venture partner(s). NTPC has also approached Coal India Ltd. (CIL) for development of mining blocks through Joint Venture route.

**Rural Electrification under PMGY**

861. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) since when the rural electrification scheme under the Pradhan mantri Gramodaya Yojana was launched;

(b) the number of villages of Andhra Pradesh electrified during the last three years under this scheme and the funds incurred there on during the period;

(c) whether the name of this scheme has been changed now; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and utility thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana was launched in the year 2000-01. The rural electrification component was included under the PMGY from the Annual Plan 2001-02.

(b) The number of villages of Andhra Pradesh electrified and the funds allocated and released during the last three years as reported by Planning Commission are as under:—

| Years | ACA Allocation (Rs. in lakh) | ACA Release (Rs. in lakh) | No. of villages |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1438.00 | 1438.00 | 654 |
| 2003-04 | 1438.00 | 1438.00 | 1242 |
| 2004-05 | 1705.00 | 1705.00 | Not Reported |

(c) and (d) The scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) has been discontinued from the current Annual Plan 2005-06 and there is no allocation for PMGY in 2005-06 Budget.

**Development/Implementation of rural roads in the country**

862. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the steps taken by Government for the development/implementation of rural roads in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(b)whether the Union Government made any allocation of funds for the purpose;

(c)if so, the details thereof for the last two years and the results achieved thereon, State-wise;

(d)whether the country still lags behind many countries in development of rural roads;

(e)if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to the taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) 'Rural Roads' is a State subject. The construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has been taken up by the State Governments in accordance with the guidelines of PMGSY This Scheme, which is in operation since December, 2000, has the objective to provide connectivity to all Unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons (250 persons in the case of North Eastern States, Hill States, Desertfand Tribal (Schedule-V) areas) by the end of the Tenth Plan period. To speed up the rural road connectivity, **a** Rural Road component has been included in the Bharat Nirman, which is a major business plan to rebuild the rural India. This component has **a** goal to provide connectivity to all villages with population of 1000 (500 in the case of Hilly or Tribal areas) with all Weather road by 2009. The programme is being implemented in all States.

(b) Yes, Sir.